

From: Paula Smeaton/SLAINTE
To: Maureen Windle/SLAINTE@SLAINTE, Stephen Doran/SLAINTE@SLAINTE
Date: 25/07/2012 12:54
Subject: Copy of letter to R. Shortall

Maureen

FYI - copy of your letter to Minister Shortall is attached (issued today)



RShortall.docx

Regards,

July 2012

Ms Roisin Shortall T.D.
Minister of State at the
Department of Health
Hawkins House
Dublin 2

Dear Roisin

Thank you for your letter of 20 July and I am happy to bring clarity and finality to these matters so rapid progress can be made on implementation of these vitally important service developments. I very much appreciate and welcome the hard work of your good self, Assistant Secretary Paul Barron and all involved in developing an implementation plan for Primary Care. I also note and appreciate the contribution of the HSE staff involved in developing a Resource Allocation model which clearly is most valuable when arriving at decisions on resource allocation.

The stimulus package approved by Government is based on PPP funding model not on 100% exchequer funding model. This approach is very much in line with Government investment policy. It is an approach that will have the most impact in terms of an economic stimulus and job creation. It offers very substantial opportunities to develop our neglected and underdeveloped Primary Care infrastructure.

Primary Care Services must expand and become fit for purpose and function. Primary Care must now play its role in the provision of the new integrated interdisciplinary models of care and treatment being implemented by Clinical Reform programme. Primary Care must also become a real dynamic alternative to the traditional hospital centric model, focusing on the needs of patients and meeting those needs in the most cost-effective way possible. Therefore it is essential to have active direct involvement and participation by GPs and other service providers in consortia that will present through the PPP funding model.

You presented only 20 projects for funding under the PPP initiative. If I approved your position there was a high probability that many GPs would simply decline to participate and we would in effect not be able to secure the minimum 20 proposals we regard as essential to meet the requirements of the Programme for Government. Following detailed analysis and intensive inclusive discussions with my advisors, the Secretary General of our Department and senior officials of the HSE I consulted with senior cabinet colleagues. They shared my concerns that the risk that GPs and other service providers might decline to participate in PPPs needed to be managed effectively. A very strong consensus emerged at Government level that identifying 35 locations would stimulate and encourage wider interest and participation in PPPs in this our first tranche of developments. In addition it was felt that the opportunity to ensure that Primary Care centres are major active 24/7 365 care and treatment centre should not be jeopardised by local conflicts of interest, the likelihood some GPs might decline to participate or be in a position to dictate the financial terms of participation and working in new Primary Care Centres. Urgent Care, Diagnostic capability, Telemedicine capability, visiting Specialists, direct access to Specialist Nursing and professionals allied to Medicine, with a comprehensive support network to support Selfcare, Homecare and Shared Care must all be provided and offer a real dynamic alternative to the hospital centric model.

I am satisfied your proposals are incorporated in the decision approved by Minister Howlin. I am also pleased to have your full support as we progress to implementation. Adjustments to locations may have to be made in respect of 2/3 locations depending on site choice and availability.

In respect of the additional posts I am simply suggesting we progress these within the constraints laid down by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform and the Government.

You will have my support as we deliver on Reform including the development as a top priority of a vibrant cost effective Primary Care service that adds real value and brings quality services to the patients we serve.

I trust this brings the clarity and finality to these matters.

Yours sincerely

Dr James Reilly T.D.
Minister for Health